

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL



STATE BOARD MEETING DATE September 25, 2006

SUBJECT: Assessments to Monitor Progress and Measure Outcome Indicators in
Preschool Children

SUBMITTED BY: Karen Woodhouse, Deputy Associate Superintendent, Early Childhood

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: September 13, 2006

The Arizona Department of Education (Department) received State Board of Education approval in June 2006 to adopt a menu of three assessment instruments for progress monitoring and for measuring outcome indicators in preschool children ages three years to kindergarten entry in early childhood programs administered by the Department. Local education agencies will select and administer one assessment from the menu in order to monitor progress of children and to meet the requirements of the 2004 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), Part B, Section 619, or to provide accountability data for the State Early Childhood Block Grant (A.R.S. §15-1251), or to provide accountability data for the State Family Literacy Program (A.R.S. §15-191.01) and Title 1 Even Start Program.

The Department issued a Request for Proposal (ED06-0049) in March 2006 soliciting proposals for appropriate, comprehensive, valid and reliable assessments for progress monitoring and for measuring outcome indicators in preschool children. Nine responses were received and evaluated by a panel representing all diverse facets of Department preschool programs and the children served. The panel included three Department representatives and four program representatives. Local education agencies benefit from this state procurement process because they will not need to repeat a local procurement process, but will be able to select a desired assessment from the menu for use in their programs.

The selected assessment instruments meet the criteria outlined in the Scope of Work, including alignment with the domains and content areas in the Arizona Early Learning Standards (as approved by the Arizona State Board of Education in May 2005). Data from administration of the adopted progress monitoring and outcome assessments will be entered into the Department's Student Accountability and Information System (SAIS) by local educational agencies and grantees beginning in school year 2006-2007.

On August 22, 2006, the Department received an official protest submitted by a publisher of an assessment instrument not originally selected by the evaluation panel. On September 7, the Department sustained the protest due to a procedural irregularity, whereby the publisher was not notified they were not susceptible for an award as required by AAC R2-7.C111. The publisher was afforded the opportunity to provide a clarifying response as requested by the Department, and the evaluation panel reconvened to review the response and rescore the proposal. The result of the panel's review indicates the vendor now meets the requirements in the Scope of Work.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: ☐ INFORMATION ☒ ACTION/DESCRIBED BELOW

Approve the Early Childhood Assessment Evaluation Panel amended recommendation that the following assessment instrument is also adopted for selection by local education agencies and other grantees for use in Department administered early childhood programs for three to five year old children:

- 1) Galileo Preschool Online Educational Management System (Assessment Technology, Incorporated, Tucson, AZ)

ATTACHMENTS: YES [] NO [X]